

**Presly Thornton to George Washington, September 26, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM PRESLEY THORNTON, ESQ. <sup>1</sup>**

WMSBURG 26 Sepr. 1758.

MY DEAR COLO.

To hear of the welfare of my Friend will always give me great Satisfaction, but your kind Letter of the 8th. Sept. has afforded infinite Pleasure, as in a paragraph of a Letter you some time ago wrote to Colo. Tayloe you mention'd my being unmindful of you, by not answering a Letter that you had wrote to me soon after I had the Pleasure of seeing you last, wch. I have never received therefore I must believe it has fallen into the Hands of the envious, I shou'd be pleased if I cou'd find out the person, & will endeavor to do it, tho' I am afraid it will be a difficult task.

Your kind wishes for my Happiness deserve my most thankful acknowledgements, mine you have, with unfeigned sincerity, and I am truly concern'd to find that the prospect of yours is so distant. I can only wish & that I will do most ardently that success may attend all your undertakings (& that soon) of wch. Happiness must be the consequence.

I wou'd write to you the resolutions of the House of Burgesses but none of them as yet are completed. I am inform'd that the Govr. detains Jenkins until they are, that you may be fully advised of them, and my Business obliges me to be absent for a few days, & lest he shou'd be sent off before my return, I shou'd have been wanting in my Friendship to you,

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if I was not to write, tho' it shou'd be nothing more than to assure you that I am with the  
greatest Truth

My dear Colo. Your Mo: Afft. Obedt. Servt. PRESLEY THORNTON.

1 Colonel Presley Thornton, son of Anthony and Winifred (Presley) Thornton, grandson of Francis and Alice (Savage) Thornton, and great-grandson of William Thornton, of Gloucester and Stafford, represented Northumberland county in the House of Burgesses from 1748 until he was appointed to the Council in 1760. Colonel Thornton was twice married. His second wife was Charlotte Belson, adopted daughter of John Tayloe, of Mount Airy. He died December 8, 1769, in the forty-eighth year of his age, leaving two sons and three daughters, Elizabeth, Peter Presley, Winifred, Presley, and Charlotte. He was a grandson of Peter Presly, from whom, through his mother, Colonel Thornton inherited Northumberland House.